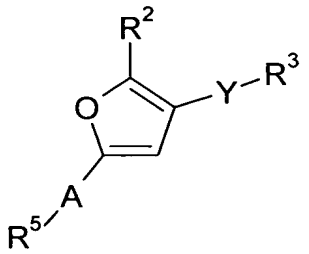
CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a condition which can be alleviated by antagonism of an EP4 receptor, which method comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment an effective amount of a compound of formula (**I**):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^2 is H or an optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl group;

Y is either $-(CH_2)_n-X-$, where n is 1 or 2 and X is O, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, or NR^{N1}, where R^{N1} is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, or Y is $-C(=O)NR^{N2}-$, where R^{N2} is selected from H, and optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-20} aryl;

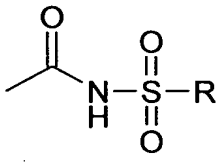
R^3 is an optionally substituted C_6 aryl group linked to a further optionally substituted C_6 aryl group, wherein if both C_6 aryl groups are benzene rings, there may be an oxygen bridge between the two rings, bound adjacent the link on both rings;

A is a single bond or a C_{1-3} alkylene group; and

R^5 is either:

(i) carboxy;

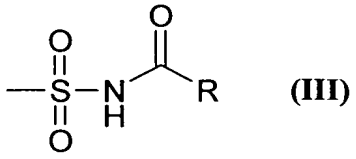
(ii) a group of formula (**II**):



(II)

; or

(iii) a group of formula (**III**):



(**III**)

,

wherein R is optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-20} aryl or $NR^{N3}R^{N4}$, where R^{N3} and R^{N4} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl;

(iv) tetrazol-5-yl.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is selected from H, methyl, CF_3 or iso-propyl.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein R^2 is methyl.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_n-X-$.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein n is 1.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein X is selected from O, S and NH.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein X is NH.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein Y is $-C(=O)NR^{N2}-$.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein R^{N2} is selected from H, and optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the C_6 aryl groups of R^3 are independently selected from those derived from benzene and heteroaryl groups, where the heteroatom or

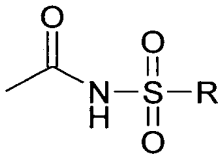
heteroatoms are nitrogen.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the C_6 aryl groups of R^3 are independently selected from those derived from benzene, pyridine and 1,3-pyrimidine.

12. The method according to claim 1, wherein A is a single bond.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein A is a C_{1-3} alkylene group.

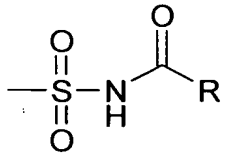
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein R^5 is either:
(i) a group of formula (**II**):



(II)

; or

(ii) a group of formula (**III**):



(III)

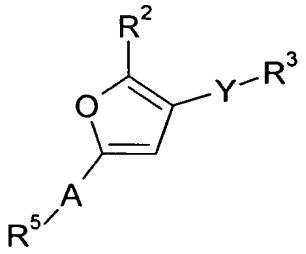
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein R is selected from an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group, and an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl-C_{1-7} alkyl group.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition alleviated by antagonism of an EP_4 receptor is a primary headache disorder.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the condition

alleviated by antagonism of an EP_4 receptor is migraines.

18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (**I**):



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein:

R^2 is H or an optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl group;

Y is either $-(CH_2)_n-X-$, where n is 1 or 2 and X is O, S, $S(=O)$, $S(=O)_2$, or NR^{N1}, where R^{N1} is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, or Y is $-C(=O)NR^{N2}-$, where R^{N2} is selected from H, and optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-20} aryl;

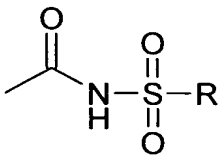
R^3 is an optionally substituted C_6 aryl group linked to a further optionally substituted C_6 aryl group, wherein if both C_6 aryl groups are benzene rings, there may be an oxygen bridge between the two rings, bound adjacent the link on both rings;

A is a single bond or a C_{1-3} alkylene group; and

R^5 is either:

(i) carboxy;

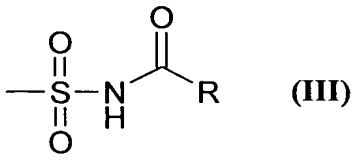
(ii) a group of formula (**II**):



(II)

; or

(iii) a group of formula (**III**):



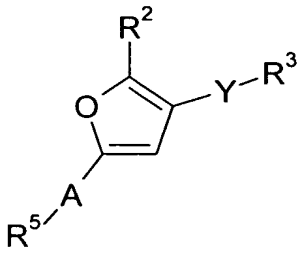
(**III**)

,

wherein R is optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-20} aryl or $NR^{N3}R^{N4}$, where R^{N3} and R^{N4} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl;

(iv) tetrazol-5-yl.

19. A compound of formula (**I**):



(**I**)

or a salt, solvate and chemically protected form thereof, wherein:

R^2 is H or an optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl group;

Y is either $-(CH_2)_n-X-$, where n is 1 or 2 and X is O, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, or NR^{N1}, where R^{N1} is selected from H or optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl, or Y is $-C(=O)NR^{N2}-$, where R^{N2} is selected from H, and optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl or C_{5-20} aryl;

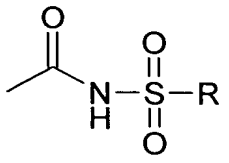
R^3 is an optionally substituted C_6 aryl group linked to a further optionally substituted C_6 aryl group, wherein if both C_6 aryl groups are benzene rings, there may be an oxygen bridge between the two rings, bound adjacent the link on both rings;

A is a single bond or a C_{1-3} alkylene group; and

R^5 is either:

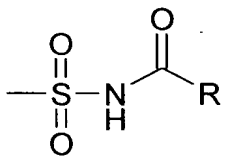
(i) carboxy;

(ii) a group of formula (**II**):


(II)

; or

(iii) a group of formula (**III**):

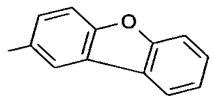

(III)

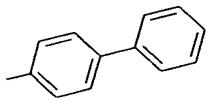
,

wherein R is optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{5-20} aryl or $NR^{N3}R^{N4}$, where R^{N3} and R^{N4} are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl;

(iv) tetrazol-5-yl,

except that when R^2 is methyl, Y is $-CH_2-O-$ and R^5 is carboxy or C_{1-7} alkyl ester thereof, then R^3 is not:

(i)  ; or

(ii)  .

20. The compound according to claim 19, wherein R^2 is selected from H, methyl, CF_3 or iso-propyl.

21. The compound according to claim 20, wherein R^2 is methyl.

22. The compound according to claim 19, wherein Y is $-(CH_2)_n-X-$.

23. The compound according to claim 22, wherein n is 1.

24. The compound according to claim 23, wherein X is selected from O, S and NH.

25. The compound according to claim 24, wherein X is NH.

26. The compound according to claim 19, wherein Y is -$C(=O)NR^{N2}-$.

27. The compound according to claim 26, wherein R^{N2} is selected from H, and optionally substituted C_{1-4} alkyl.

28. The compound according to claim 19, wherein the C_6 aryl groups of R^3 are independently selected from those derived from benzene and heteroaryl groups, where the heteroatom or heteroatoms are nitrogen.

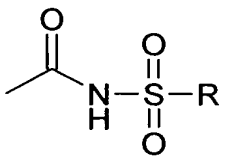
29. The compound according to claim 28, wherein the C_6 aryl groups of R^3 are independently selected from those derived from benzene, pyridine and 1,3-pyrimidine.

30. The compound according to claim 19, wherein A is a single bond.

31. The compound according to claim 19, wherein A is a C_{1-3} alkylene group.

32. The compound according to claim 19, wherein R^5 is either:

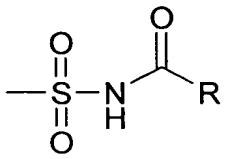
(i) a group of formula (**II**):



(II)

; or

(ii) a group of formula (**III**):



(III)

33. The compound according to claim 32, wherein R is selected from an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl group, and an optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl-C_{1-7} alkyl group.